

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

August 11, 2005

The minutes of the proceedings of a work session of the City Council of the City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon, held at 6 p.m. in the Manager's Conference Room at City Hall, 500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay, Oregon.

Those Attending

Those present were Mayor Joe Benetti and Councilors Jon Eck, Roger Gould, Jeff McKeown, John Muenchrath, and Kevin Stufflebean. Councilor Cindi Miller was absent. City staff present were City Manager Scott McClure, Deputy Recorder Joyce Jansen, Finance Director Janell Howard, Fire Chief Stan Gibson, and members of the Fire Department were also present.

Discussion of the Fire Station Project

Mayor Benetti commented the purpose of the meeting was to make the decisions necessary for proceeding with the Fire Station Project, including consideration of location, financing, and deciding on one station or two stations. City Manager Scott McClure briefly commented on the need to review financing, service levels, and site analysis. Fire Chief Stan Gibson reported on the process and results of the Station Siting Committee and briefly reviewed the proposed locations: Ocean and Highland, 7th and Central Avenue, and retro-fitting the Downtown Central Station. The discussion included locating the station in the urban renewal district, possible purchase of the Dairy Queen and automotive properties, consideration of flood plain issues, and one station versus two stations. The fire chief and fire staff reviewed the map designating time travel for emergency calls. Chief Gibson noted the national average response time is 4.2 minutes and Coos Bay's last 50 calls averaged 3.5 minutes.

There was further discussion on locating the facility near the hospital, concern about traffic congestion on Central Avenue, using the State Police property on 4th Street, and the property on Elrod. Consensus of the Council and staff that retro-fitting the Downtown Central property was not a viable alternative. Consideration of approaching the City of North Bend to form an inter-governmental agreement was also discussed, and locating the College fire program off campus was reviewed. Council and staff reviewed current fire staffing levels, whether one station could serve the whole city, coverage of the Empire area, formation of a fire district for Coos Bay, North Bend, and Charleston, and locating a station near the college. Also discussed was building a small Empire station and incorporating a community meeting room in the facility. There was further discussion on financing the project using blended funding consisting of Urban Renewal funds and bonding. There was a brief discussion on the need for a geotech study on the 7th and Central Avenue, the Dairy Queen/automotive, and the State Police building properties. The Council directed staff to work on getting preliminary estimates on property purchases and to gather information on geo-tech study procedure and cost.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Benetti adjourned the meeting to August 16, 2005 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

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Joe Benetti, Mayor

ATTEST:

Joyce Jansen, Deputy Recorder